

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1.-52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus including an illuminating device adapted to illuminate an original and a photoelectric converting device adapted to effect photoelectric conversion on the light from the original, the illuminating device including a light conductive member ~~for receiving light~~ having a rod-shaped member, the light conductive member comprising:

a light entrance first face ~~provided in at least a part of a first side that~~ ~~[[forms]] is a longitudinal lateral face of [[a]] the rod-shaped translucent member, said first face including a light entrance face onto which the light is incident;~~

~~a first light reflecting and/or diffusing area provided on a second side opposed to said light entrance face and inclined relative to a light axis of the received light, said first light reflecting and/or diffusing area being adapted to reflect and/or diffuse the entering light within the translucent member, wherein said first light reflecting and/or diffusing area reflects and/or diffuses a portion of the incident light from said light entrance face and reflects and/or diffuses a portion of the incident light from said light entrance face toward a direction of the other side of said light entrance face; and a second face which is a longitudinal face opposite to said first face, said second face including a first area which is~~

approximately parallel to said first face, and a second area which is inclined so that a distance between said first face and said second face becomes shorter along the longitudinal direction, wherein the light entrance face is under the second area of said second face; and

a light exit area adapted to emit at least a part of the light to the outside of the ~~translucent~~ rod-shaped member.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 53, further comprising a light source that includes an LED.

56. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 53, further comprising a light source that includes a plurality of light-emitting elements, each light-emitting element having different light emission wavelength ranges.

57. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 56, wherein said light source comprises LEDs.

58. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 53, further comprising a drive unit, said drive unit being adapted to shift a positional relationship between the original and the photoelectric converting device.

59. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 53, further comprising a ~~second~~ light reflecting and/or diffusing area provided on the first ~~[[side]]~~ face, said ~~second~~ light reflecting and/or diffusing area being adapted to reflect and/or diffuse the light to said light exit area and inclined with respect to a longitudinal axis of the translucent rod-shaped member.